Remarks

Claims 1-5 are pending.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected.

Claims 1-2 and 4-5 are amended.

Claims 6-9 are new.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 -9 are hereby submitted for reconsideration.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as being indefinite. Applicant has amended the claims accordingly and hereby requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Turning to the substantive rejections, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 102(e) as being anticipated by Bahar (U.S. Patent No. 7019670). Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner's rejection and submits the following remarks in response.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a parking meter having a means for accessing a remote server via a predetermined communication network, a short range communication module adapted to dialog via a short range radio or infrared channel with a short range communication module of a remote terminal and a communication router adapted to receive information from the remote terminal via this communication channel and to route that information to the remote server via the communication network and receive information from the remote server via the communication network and to route that

information to the remote terminal via the communication channel.

Independent claim 1 includes a communication router. A communication router operates at the network layer of the OSI model. A communication router therefore means a device that determines the next network point to which to forward a data packet toward its destination, a process known as routing. A router must be connected to at least two networks. In claim 1 the communication router is connected on the one hand to the communication channel for communicating with the remote terminal and on the other hand to the communication network for communicating with the server. As such, claim 1 relates to the arrangement where a communication between the remote terminal and the remote server is handled via the parking meter's router. Applicant notes that a router is not the recipient of the message it routes.

The cited prior art, namely, Bahar describes a parking meter having a data receiving element 28 capable of receiving data (e.g. user data) from a user, through wired and/or wireless technology such as radio frequency or infrared data, and a data transceiver 33 which transmits and/or receives data to and from the parking meter 27, in particular with a central computer station. The parking meter correlates the user's data with data pertaining to the parking violation and generates a citation which is transmitted to the central computer station.

Bahar therefore describes the use of two data transmissions; a first data transmission from the user to the parking meter, and then a second data transmission from the parking meter to the central computer station. Between the two data transmissions, the user's data is processed.

In Bahar, the parking meter does not operate as a communication router for the following reasons. First, the recipient of the first message from the user device is the parking meter, not the central computer station. Second, the user data is processed in the parking meter, meaning that the parking meter operates at the application layer of the OSI model.

Since the recipient of the first message sent by the user device is the parking meter and since the sender of the second message received by the central computer station is the parking meter, there is no reason to include a communication router in the parking meter of Bahar because the operation does not require and even teaches away from routing between the user device and the central computer station.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art does not teach or suggest all of the elements as claimed in claim 1. For example, Bahar does not disclose a parking meter comprising, *"a communication router adapted to receive information from the remote terminal via this communication channel and to route that information to the remote server via the communication network, and receive information from the remote server via the communication network and to route that information to the remote terminal via the communication channel."* Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. As claims 2-9 depend from claim 1, Applicant requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn as well.

Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this Application they are invited

to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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